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Agenda item 20 (e)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS, "WHITE HELMETS", IN ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, Guyana, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, South Africa and Uruguay: draft resolution

Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/139 B of 20 December 1994 and 50/19 of 28 November 1995,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 A and B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Recognizing that the success of the international community in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations around the world depends not only on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response but also in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Bearing in mind that prevention, preparedness and contingency planning for emergencies at a global level depends, for the most part, on the strengthened

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local and national response capacities as well as on the availability of financial resources to the different parties concerned,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General,[1] prepared in pursuance of its resolution 50/19, on the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development;

2. Welcomes also the commendable progress of the White Helmets initiative as an international effort to provide the United Nations with an instrument for dealing more effectively with complex humanitarian emergencies;

3. Recognizes the White Helmets and their operational partner, the United Nations Volunteers as an efficient and viable institutional and financial mechanism for making for making pre-identified and trained homogeneous teams available to the United Nations system, in support of immediate relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development activities;

4. Calls upon Member States to enhance cooperation with United Nations agencies as well as to facilitate cooperative actions between the United Nations system and their respective civil societies, in order to implement further the availability of national volunteer corps to the United Nations system in case of wide humanitarian emergencies;

5. Encourages Member States to continue with the establishment of their respective national focal points for White Helmets in order to provide the United Nations system with an accessible global network of rapid-response facilities in case of humanitarian crisis;

6. Invites Member States and the United Nations system to continue to develop and implement further ways and means to ensure the full integration of the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities, particularly those related to humanitarian, disaster and relief assistance and, at the field level, to enhance coordination and support through the United Nations resident coordinator system;

7. Invites the Secretary-General to consider the potential use of White Helmets/United Nations Volunteers as a resource for preventive action and post-conflict peace-building activities;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to identify, within the context of the ongoing reform efforts, the office in New York that will be responsible for the White Helmets liaison functions;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in the context of the cluster of issues related to the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", on the actions taken in line with the present resolution.

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[1] A/52/586.